

PHILIPPINES

I. Long-smouldering feud between President
(HIS FELLOW PARTY MEMBER)
Magsaysay and ultranationalist Senator
Recto, has finally erupted into open political
break.

- A. Basic issue between the two has been
whether or not Philippines should pursue
a pro-American policy.
- B. Immediate cause for split was Recto's
charge that Philippine recognition of
South Vietnam was dictated by US and
that Magsaysay was an "American puppet."

II. Magsaysay, who has soft-pedeled Recto problem
in interest of Nationalista Party
harmony, has taken off the gloves.

- A. Publicly announced that he would oppose
Recto's renomination in November, and
would campaign against him if he is
nominated.

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Recto is expected to continue maintain virulent anti-Magsaysay, anti-US attitude.

- A. He has indicated that he may seek to form a new political party, and he threatened to run against Magsaysay in 1957 if the latter again runs for the presidency.
- B. Other reports indicate that he is attempting to obtain support of opposition Liberal Party senators.
- C. ^{His} Present support consists of a small handful of "old guard" Nationalista senators.
- D. It is significant, however, that these-- particularly Jose Laurel--have not yet backed him up in break with Magsaysay.
- E. Unless there is drastic change in Philippine political climate, Recto will probably fail to win renomination for Senate.